

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for signaling write status, the method comprising:
2 detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into an
3 input/output port associated with a computer; and
4 activating a write-in-progress indicator that signals that writing has not been
5 completed by the external storage device.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises
2 detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into an input/output
3 port of the computer.

- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises
2 detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into an input/output
3 port provided in a front panel of the computer.

- 1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein activating a write-in-progress
2 indicator comprises activating an indicator of the computer that is adjacent the
3 input/output port.

- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting transfer of data comprises
2 detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into an input/output
3 port of a connector hub that is connected to the computer.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein activating a write-in-progress
2 indicator comprises activating an indicator of the connector hub that is adjacent the
3 input/output port.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein activating a write-in-progress
2 indicator comprises activating an indicator light associated with the input/output port.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein activating an indicator light comprises
2 activating a light-emitting diode associated with the input/output port.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein activating a write-in-progress
2 indicator comprises issuing an advanced configuration power interface command to a
3 switch that controls the indicator.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining when the
2 external storage device has completed writing and deactivating the write-in-progress
3 indicator when it is determined that writing has been completed.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein determining when the external
2 storage device has completed writing comprises communicating with the external
3 storage device to obtain information regarding a write status of the external storage
4 device.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein communicating with the external
2 storage device comprises sending a command requesting confirmation when writing is
3 completed or a query requesting an indication as to whether writing is completed.

1 13. A system for signaling write status, the system comprising:
2 means for detecting transfer of data to an external storage device plugged into
3 an input/output port associated with a computer;
4 means for activating a write-in-progress indicator that signals that writing has
5 not been completed by the external storage device;
6 means for determining when the external storage device has completed
7 writing; and
8 means for deactivating the write-in-progress indicator when it is determined
9 that writing has been completed.

1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for detecting transfer of
2 data comprise means for detecting transfer of data to an external storage device
3 plugged into an input/output port of the computer.

1 15. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for detecting transfer of
2 data comprise means for detecting transfer of data to an external storage device
3 plugged into an input/output port of a connector hub connected to the computer.

1 16. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for activating a write-in-
2 progress indicator comprise means for activating an indicator light that is adjacent the
3 input/output port.

1 17. The system of claim 13, further comprising an indicator light adapted
2 for placement next to the input/output port.

1 18. A system stored on a computer-readable medium, the system
2 comprising:

3 logic configured to activate a write-in-progress indicator when data is
4 transferred to an external storage device that is plugged into an input/output port
5 associated with a computer, the indicator signaling that writing has not been
6 completed by the external storage device;

7 logic configured to determine when the external storage device has completed
8 writing; and

9 logic configured to deactivate the write-in-progress indicator when it is
10 determined that writing has been completed.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the logic configured to activate a
2 write-in-progress indicator comprises logic configured to activate an indicator
3 adjacent the input/output port.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the logic configured to activate a
2 write-in-progress indicator comprises logic configured to issue an advanced
3 configuration power interface command to a switch that controls the indicator.

1 21. The system of claim 18, wherein the logic configured to determine
2 when the external storage device has completed writing comprises logic configured to
3 send a command or query to the external storage device requesting information
4 regarding a write status of the external storage device.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the logic configured to send a
2 command or query is configured to request a confirmation notification that writing
3 has been completed.

1 23. A computer, comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 memory that contains a write monitor configured to activate a write-in-
4 progress indicator when data is transferred to an external storage device that is
5 plugged into an input/output port associated with the computer, determine when the
6 external storage device has completed writing, and deactivate the write-in-progress
7 indicator when it is determined that writing has been completed.

1 24. The computer of claim 23, further comprising an input/output port
2 provided on a front panel of the computer.

1 25. The computer of claim 24, wherein the input/output port is a universal
2 serial bus port.

1 26. The computer of claim 24, further comprising an indicator light
2 provided on the front panel adjacent the input/output port.

1 27. The computer of claim 26, wherein the indicator light is a light-
2 emitting diode.

1 28. A connector hub, comprising:
2 a controller;
3 an input/output port adapted to receive a plug of an external storage device;
4 and
5 an indicator light positioned adjacent the input/output port;
6 wherein the connector hub is configured such that the indicator light
7 illuminates a warning signal while writing is in progress in the external storage
8 device.

1 29. The connector hub of claim 28, wherein the input/output port is a
2 universal serial bus port.

1 30. The connector hub of claim 28, wherein the indicator light is a light-
2 emitting diode.

1 31. An external storage device, comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a buffer system that is configured to receive data transferred from a computer;
4 storage media that is configured to store the data received by the buffer
5 system; and
6 memory including logic configured to detect when all data cached in the
7 buffer system has been written to the storage media and to further communicate a
8 write completion status to the computer.

1 32. The external storage device of claim 31, wherein the storage media
2 comprises one or more of flash memory, atomic resolution storage memory, and
3 magnetic random access memory.